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United States Department of State

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

July 27, 2009

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 27, 2009

JUL 2009  
Dep Sec  
Has Seen

**ACTION MEMO FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY STEINBERG**

FROM: EEB – David D. Nelson, Acting *(initials)*

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from the Canadian Ambassador Urging the State Department to Expeditedly Issue a Presidential Permit for the Alberta Clipper Petroleum Pipeline

**Recommendation**

*this week (July 29, 2009, @ 9:45 am)*  
That you agree to receive a telephone call from Canadian Ambassador Michael Wilson on July 27 at a time to be determined.

Approve

Disapprove

7/27/09

**Background**

The State Department is the lead federal agency for processing applications for Presidential permits to construct and operate cross-border facilities, including petroleum pipelines. EEB, OES, and L have concluded their evaluation of the Enbridge Energy application and will be recommending that a permit be issued for the Alberta Clipper Pipeline intended to cross the U.S.-Canada border with significant volumes of Canadian crude oil. The authority to sign the permit and other related documents has been delegated to you, Deputy Lew, E, and P. In the past, E has approved and signed these permits, but we believe a more senior review is appropriate in this case. Senator Klobuchar (D-MN) and Representative Oberstar (D-MN) have written to the Department to encourage a prompt decision given the limited construction season along the pipeline route. Environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have stated their opposition to the pipeline and to extraction of Canada's oil sands, and have threatened to sue the State Department over the permit. President Obama announced a Clean Energy Dialogue with Canada as a mechanism to manage the energy security and environmental aspects of the bilateral energy trade; this work is underway. Pending a final review by L, OES, and Special Envoy Stern, you should be in a position to receive the permit package the week of July 27.

**Attachment:**

Call Sheet

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**DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED**

July 23, 2009

**AM to D re call from Canadian Ambassador.docx**

Approved: EEB: David D. Nelson, Acting -ok

Drafted: EEB/ESC: J. Brian Duggan; 7x1291; 703-704-6690

Cleared: D(S): Pamela Park – ok  
P: Laura Rosenberger – ok  
S/P: Francisco Gonzalez – ok  
E: Seneca Johnson – ok  
EEB/ESC: Peter Secor, Acting – ok  
EEB/ESC: Matt McManus – ok  
L/EB: John Schnitker – ok  
L/OES: John Kim – ok  
OES/EGC: Trigg Talley – info  
WHA/CAN: Eleanore Fox – ok  
S/SECC: Don Rochberg – info  
H: Betsy Fitzgerald – ok